

Boy Scout Troop 1085

Member's Guide

1/31/2006

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## Orientation for New Scouts and Parents

Welcome to Troop 1085! Scouting is a big adventure for boys and families alike. Getting started is easy. Getting involved is contagious. Having fun is the first and last rule. In between are a lot of other things that this guide will cover. Nobody is expected to memorize or even read this document cover-to-cover. Use this document as a reference for finding the answers to your questions as they come up. If you are new to the troop or scouting in general, please take a moment now to read this section and review the table of contents so that you can get a feel for this guide and our troop.

This document is intended to provide both scouts and parents with a guide to membership in Troop 1085. The guide is meant to be a snapshot of the current ways and means of the troop and will be updated as often as needed. The guide will provide the reader with a good idea of how to take part in all troop activities, but should not be considered a detailed set of rules. The details of any specific activity will depend on the situation and people involved. It is always the responsibility of the scout and his parents to make sure they keep themselves informed on the details of all activities they wish to take part in.

If there is something about the troop you don't understand or have questions about, this is the place to start looking for answers. If you don't find what you are looking for here, then please refer to the troop website, [www.troop1085.org](http://www.troop1085.org), or continue your search by asking one of the boy leaders for assistance. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) are always responsible for knowing where to find the needed information when it comes to how things work in the troop.

Ultimately, the adult leaders will always be responsible for answering any questions, but the adult leaders should not be considered the first point of contact for questions related to the normal activities of the troop. This is a theme that is repeated throughout this guide. Scouting is an organization and activity created to help boys become more capable and self-sufficient in every aspect of life. Baden Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, once said "*Never do anything a boy can do for himself.*" Making the boys responsible for knowing how their own troop works is the first step in that direction.

## Purpose of the Boy Scouts of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
- Have a high degree of self-reliance with evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
- Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- Have the desire and skills to help others.
- Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
- Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the regular schedule?**

Troop meetings are held weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the gym of Rogers Elementary School and are typically 1 1/2 hours long. The first hour is for troop business and may consist of skill building activities, planning for upcoming events and working on merit badges. The final half hour is open gym time.

### **Who can join?**

Any boy age 11 to 17 can join. Boys who have earned the Arrow of Light award in Cub Scouting can join the troop prior to their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are no other requirements. No previous scouting experience is necessary or expected.

### **What level of participation is required?**

Participation is an individual decision. Each boy and family should participate at a level that is right for them. There are no minimum requirements for either the boys or their families, but the more a scout and his family participate, the more they will get out of the scouting experience.

### **What are the opportunities?**

Scouting offers many opportunities in many different forms. From camping and travel to developing skills and knowledge, scouting has something to offer everyone. The troop runs weekly meetings, monthly camping trips, community service projects, attends a week-long summer camp and many other activities. What is important to recognize is that while scouting and the troop will provide opportunities, the secret to success is self-involvement. It is always up to the scout and family to involve themselves. The troop is never responsible for ensuring any scout or adult is involved in any event. Coming to the weekly troop meetings and monthly parent committee meetings is the best way to stay informed of all the opportunities.

### **What are the costs?**

Costs are a variable. The troop will collect annual dues from every scout. Dues are generally paid in January and have been from \$30-\$60 dollars in past years. Campouts can be an expensive activity for the troop and there is usually a \$20 fee for scouts to attend a weekend camping trip. Summer camp can cost anywhere from \$100-\$250 dollars, depending on location and program. Uniforms and handbooks are also significant expenses and should be budgeted for. Expenses can be paid from the scout's troop account. Each scout will have an account with the troop. Scouts can earn funds in their troop account by participating in troop fund raisers, service projects or simply making a cash deposit. Ambitious scouts can pay for their entire scouting experience through fundraising and service projects.

### **How Much Parental Involvement Is Required?**

All parents are encouraged to support the troop in whatever way they can. Adult leaders are the most important resource the boys have. Adult leaders have many different roles. From the uniformed leaders that help the boys with their weekly meetings and activities to the helpers behind the scenes, there are no limits on the opportunities for parents to get involved. Some parents will become very active uniformed leaders; some will only act as car pool drivers; most will fall somewhere in the middle. Each parent should do what they can, but in the spirit of scouting, parents are asked to challenge themselves to grow with their boys and try new experiences and responsibilities. If you would like to get more involved as an adult leader, please attend a parent committee meeting and find out what you can do.

## Boy Scouts of America Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

When a boy joins Troop 1085, he agrees to live by the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law are recited at the start of every regular troop meeting.

### The Scout Oath:

*On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight*

### The Scout Law:

*A Scout is:  
Trustworthy,  
Loyal,  
Helpful,  
Friendly,  
Courteous,  
Kind,  
Obedient,  
Cheerful,  
Thrifty,  
Brave,  
Clean,  
Reverent*

### The Scout Slogan:

*Do a good turn daily.*

### The Scout Motto:

*Be prepared.*

## Three Aims of the Boy Scout Program

Boy Scouting works toward three aims.

1. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the Scout is himself – his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.
2. A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the Scout's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives, to the government that presides over that society.
3. A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems) and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

## The Methods of Scouting

### Advancement

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

### Adult Association

Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

### Personal Growth

As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

### Ideals

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

### Patrols

The Patrol Method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches Scouts how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine Troop activities through their elected leaders. There is more on the patrol method below.

### Outdoors

Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive.

### Leadership Development

Boy Scouting encourages (and sometimes requires) Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a Scout accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

### Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout Troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an active program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood who believes in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

## Uniforms

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges – important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, and feel a greater pride in advancement.

**Class A Uniform**

The Troop 1085 Class A uniform consists of the official BSA khaki shirt and appropriate pants. Appropriate pants means the official BSA olive green pants or shorts or any other reasonable substitute. Green slacks, cargo pants, camp shorts or any other similar item may be substituted for the official BSA pants and shorts. Every effort should be made to wear green pants, but khaki may be substituted if needed. Bright colors, patterns and logos should be avoided and are not considered part of the Class A uniform. BSA hats and neckerchiefs are optional.

The Class A uniform is to be worn at all Troop meetings, on outings and special functions, traveling to and from campouts, for a Scoutmaster conference, Board of Review, to see a merit badge counselor or as noted by the Scoutmaster.

**Class B Uniform**

The Troop 1085 Class B uniform consists of the troop numbered colored t-shirts and appropriate pants. Appropriate pants means any pants allowed with the Class A uniform or jeans. Bright colors, patterns and logos should be avoided and are not considered part of the Class B uniform.

The Class B uniform is to be worn at all Troop activities where the Class A is not required.

**How the uniform can help a Scout**

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the Scouts or make them feel that they are all the same. But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform, he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves to principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose. By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

**How the uniform can help the Troop**

- When smartly worn, the uniform can help build Troop spirit.
- By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
- The uniform makes the Troop visible as a force for good in the community.
- When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
- Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

**Uniform Exchange**

The Uniform Exchange is a program so that Scouts can trade in "experienced" Scout uniform pieces and get new ones in exchange. Need a new shirt? Trade in your old one or an old slide or an old Scout book. Don't have any old uniform part? No problem. If you need a uniform part, call LaVerne Cleary at (248) 644-7327. No Scout is turned down for lack of a part to exchange.

## BSA (Boy Scouts of America) Organization

### BSA National Council

P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015  
[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

The Boys Scouts of America national organization is a large group that sets the structure the local councils fit into and runs some activities open to all scout troops across the country. The troop committee officers will take care of any interaction the troop has with the national organization and there is generally no need for individual scouts or families to address the national offices.

### Detroit Area Council (DAC)

1776 West Warren Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48208  
(313) 897-1965  
[www.dacbsa.org](http://www.dacbsa.org)

The Detroit Area Council, or DAC, is our local council. The council offices and store are open during normal business hours. The Detroit Area Council covers all Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs in the metropolitan Detroit Area. Most of the troop's official business is conducted through DAC. DAC runs many activities and services that its local districts, troops and packs can take advantage of. DAC runs two scout camps – D-A (D Bar A) Scout Ranch in Metamora and Cole Canoe Base, north of Saginaw.

### North Trails District

North Trails District is our local district. There is no physical district office and the district staff is made up of volunteers from member troops and packs. The North Trails District covers all of the troops and packs in the north Woodward corridor and includes Berkley, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Franklin, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park and Southfield. The main function of the district is to draw the local troops and packs together for roundtable meetings and training activities. Roundtable meetings are held one Thursday evening a month. Roundtables are a great way to keep up on activities at the district, council and national level.

### Troop 1085

[www.troop1085.org](http://www.troop1085.org)

We are Troop 1085. We meet from 7:00-8:30 on Tuesday evenings in the Rogers Elementary School gymnasium. Troop 1085 has been around for over 50 years and is the only active Boy Scout troop in Berkley. Troop 1085 represents an organization that was previously two scout troops – 1082 and 1085. In early 2005, Troops 1082 and 1085 decided to merge. The new merged troop retained the 1085 number and weekly meeting place at Rogers Elementary School. The charter organization of Troop 1082, the American Legion Hall of Berkley (2079 12 Mile Rd.), was retained as the troop charter organization and meeting place for formal activities. In order to remain active and sanctioned by BSA, Troop 1085 must file a troop charter (membership roster and dues) with DAC every January.

## Troop Structure

The structure of the troop revolves around the boys and their activities. The boys organize and lead themselves with the guidance and support of the adults. The boys are grouped into patrols and they elect their own leadership. The adults provide support in two forms – as adult leaders and as the parent committee that defines troop policy and manages troop assets.

## Patrols and the Patrol Method

The Scouts are organized into patrols and elect their own leaders to run the troop. Troop 1085 believes in and follows the Boy Scout Patrol Method, which promotes a boy-run program.

### Patrols

The troop is made up of several patrols varying in size, usually from four to ten scouts. Each patrol has its own identity and acts as a mini-troop within the troop. Patrols will have their own activities within troop meetings, their own campsite areas and duty rosters on campouts and to some extent their own culture.

Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader who leads the patrol for a period of time – usually one school year and the following summer. The Patrol Leader role is designed to help boys learn to organize activities, delegate responsibilities, build teams and foster team spirit.

### Patrol Leadership Council (PLC)

The PLC is the boy-run leadership team that makes the troop move as a unit. The boys on the PLC are elected by the scouts in the troop and the rest of the troop takes direction from the PLC. Under the leadership of the Senior Patrol Leader and assisted by the Troop Scoutmaster, the PLC discusses and decides on the troop program of outings and meetings. The members of the PLC are the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Patrol Leaders and Troop Guide(s). The troop Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters provide assistance and guidance to the PLC, but are not members of the PLC.

### New Scout Patrol

Boys entering the troop from Webelos or without sufficient scouting experience will be placed in a patrol specifically for new scouts. The purpose of the new scout patrol is to get new scouts up to speed on the ways of scouting and the troop as quickly as possible and to integrate them into the troop.

Once a scout has achieved the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class or has attended a full week of summer camp with the troop or has been an active member of the troop for a full year, he is no longer required to stay with the new scout patrol. Scouts leaving the new scout patrol may elect the patrol they wish to join. If several scouts are leaving the new scout patrol at one time or circumstances permit, a new patrol may be formed with the approval of the PLC and Scoutmaster.

### Changing Patrols

If a patrol becomes too small or too large to continue to function effectively, the Scoutmaster and PLC may decide to move boys from one patrol to another, split patrols or completely dissolve and reform all of the troop patrols. Should a scout wish to change patrols, he may solicit the Senior Patrol Leader for the opportunity. Changing patrols is not a frequent event and is only done for the good of the troop as a whole.

## Youth Leadership Positions

There are many leadership positions that the boys may take within the troop. The first responsibility of all youth leaders is to set a good example for other boys in the troop. All youth

leaders are elected by their fellow scouts in the troop. In order to advance in rank, scouts must hold leadership positions within the troop. It is possible for a boy to hold more than one position at a time, but this is discouraged as it limits leadership opportunities for other boys. This guide will describe the general roles and responsibilities of the official positions.

**Senior Patrol Leader**

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the Scoutmaster's right-hand man and is the highest position of responsibility a scout can have. The SPL works with the adult and youth leaders of the troop to plan troop activities and is responsible for the boys executing their parts in those plans. Like the Scoutmaster, the SPL has a great deal of influence on the overall troop culture and activity level.

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**

The troop may have more than one Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). The ASPL takes direction from the SPL and works with the individual patrols to make sure they understand their tasks and guides them in the execution of those tasks. The ASPL must recognize when adult help is needed and call on the Assistant Scoutmasters for it.

**Patrol Leader**

Each patrol will have a Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader takes direction from the ASPL and is responsible for the execution of their patrol's activities. This includes assigning manageable tasks to individuals within the patrol.

**Troop Guide**

Troop Guides are experienced scouts that are responsible for working with less experienced scouts in need of help learning the ropes of troop life. Troop Guides act as interim Patrol Leaders for new patrols that are not ready to manage themselves.

**Librarian**

The Librarian is the caretaker of the troop's collection of merit badge books. The Librarian must provide all troop members with access to the troop library and keep track of who has what book.

**Quartermaster**

The Quartermaster is the caretaker of the troop's equipment. The Quartermaster must provide all troop members with access to the troop equipment and keep inventory of the troop's belongings.

**Historian / Scribe**

The Historian/Scribe is responsible for chronicling troop activities and correspondence with other organizations the boys interact with. The Historian/Scribe must photograph and archive troop events and outings and make them available to the troop.

**Bugler**

Buglers are responsible for calling the troop to order according to the schedule of the current event. Duties include the playing of revelry and taps at the start and end of each day at camp as well as calling the scouts together for the opening and closing of troop meetings.

**National Youth Leadership Training (Pinecone)**

The BSA National organization runs special local summer camps for those boys interested in taking on the bigger leadership positions within their troops. Here in the Detroit Area Council, this camp has been known as "Pinecone". In recent years, Pinecone and similar camps run by other councils have been organized by the national office under the name National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). NYLT is an intensive weeklong camp provided to scouts selected by their adult leaders for their potential and dedication to scouting. NYLT is a big challenge and a big opportunity for a boy and one that requires a significant commitment to the troop.

## Parent Committee

The Parent Committee is made up of all parents and adult guardians and membership is implicit with having a scout in the troop. The committee is responsible for ensuring the troop has the adult and financial support needed to reach its goals. The Parent Committee works with the adult leaders of the troop to set troop policy (including the content of this document), identify the needs of the troop and to ensure those needs are met.

Parent Committee Meetings are held approximately once a month, usually on a Monday evening at a floating location. Announcements will be made to notify parents of upcoming committee meetings.

## Adult Leadership Positions

There are a variety of adult leadership positions with the troop. All leadership positions are voluntary. Some are “official” positions that are defined by BSA, require a commitment of one or more years of service and have predefined responsibilities. Some are “unofficial” temporary positions that are created by the troop on an as-needed basis, usually to serve as organizers for specific events. All positions are assigned by the parent committee, using a vote if necessary. It is possible for an individual to hold more than one leadership position at a time. This guide will describe the general roles and responsibilities of the official positions.

### Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the most visible adult leader in the troop. He is the head coach of the troop and will appear to the boys as the highest authority within the troop. The main role of the Scoutmaster is train the boy leaders, guide the PLC, promote the concept of a boy-run troop and support the boys that are taking responsibility within the troop. More than anyone in the troop, the Scoutmaster will define the personality of the troop and the pace at which it moves.

### Assistant Scoutmaster

The troop may have as many Assistant Scoutmasters as is helpful. The role of the Assistant Scoutmaster is to support the efforts of the Scoutmaster and to act as Scoutmaster in his absence. The Assistant Scoutmasters will have more direct contact with the boys that are not in the leadership patrol and may have a more detail-oriented and less structured relationship with the troop.

### Committee Chair

The Committee Chair is to the parents what the Scoutmaster is to the boys. The Committee Chair is responsible for organizing and running the parent committee with the goal of ensuring the troop has the parental and financial support needed. The Committee Chair must work with the Scoutmaster to define the needs of the troop and ensure the parents understand those needs and have an action plan to meet them.

### Rank Advancement Chair

The Rank Advancement Chair is responsible for administering all rank advancement and merit badge activities the boys take part in. The Rank Advancement Chair will coordinate and facilitate the paperwork and counseling of the boys for all such activities.

### Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for administering the troop's finances. The Treasurer keeps records of all troop income and all troop expenses and is the interface to the bank where the troop account is kept. The Treasurer tracks the individual account each boy has with the troop. The parent committee manages the troop assets and determines how the troop funds are dispersed. The treasurer oversees the cash flow in accordance to the direction of the parent committee.

## Rank, Badges and Awards

### Rank Advancement

All Scouts have a rank. Rank is denoted by a badge on the Class A uniform shirt and indicates the level of scouting a boy has achieved. Please refer to the Scout Handbook for a detailed description of each rank and the requirements for achieving them. In order to advance in rank, a scout must complete the requirements for the next rank and pass a Board of Review with adult leaders. Some scouting activities require a scout to hold a minimum rank, usually First Class, in order to participate. Rank advancement is second only to personal development as a measure of a scout's achievements. Rank advancement, while a focus of scouting, is not required and should be addressed by each scout on their own terms.

Rank and advancement should not be confused with merit badges. Merit badges play an important role in the rank advancement process, but are only part of the story. Rank advancement requires a commitment to the ideals of scouting, significant participation in the troop and service to the community that goes well beyond the requirements of any given merit badge.

A scout has several responsibilities in the rank advancement process. A scout is always responsible for tracking their own progress toward the next rank. The Scout Handbook defines all of the requirements for the next rank and provides a checklist for tracking the completion of each requirement.

It is the scout's responsibility to have each requirement signed off by an adult leader. Parents may not signoff on the requirements of their own boy.

The last two requirements of every rank are a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review. Once a scout has completed all but these last two requirements and an adult leader has signed off on each of these completed requirements, the scout should request a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review.

#### Scoutmaster Conference

The Scoutmaster Conference is an informal one-on-one meeting between the Scoutmaster and the boy. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange thoughts about the scout's relationship to scouting and the troop and to set direction for the future. Scouts should make every effort to request a Scoutmaster conference be held in conjunction with a regular troop meeting or camp out. For the protection of the scout and the Scoutmaster, the conference should be held in sight of the troop.

#### Board of Review

Once the Scoutmaster Conference is completed, the scout may request a Board of Review. A Board of Review is a more formal meeting between the scout and at least three adult leaders. The Board of Review meeting is a review of the activities that lead to the completion of the rank requirements, how the requirements were met and if all requirements have been satisfactorily understood and appreciated. Passing the Board of Review marks the official advancement of rank, although the rank award (badge) may not actually be awarded until the next Court of Awards.

### Merit Badges

Merit badges, as much as camping and knot tying, are the best known part of scouting. A merit badge represents the successful completion of a set of activities and tests focused on a specific subject. Scouts will find some of their greatest adventures in Scouting will be encountered while working toward merit badges. While the troop will lead the boys through a few of the more difficult and academically oriented merit badges required along the path to Eagle, it is up to each

scout to go after and earn merit badges on their own outside of weekly meetings and weekend campouts. Summer camp offers more opportunities for scouts to earn merit badges than any other activity and most Scouts can earn four or five merit badges in a week of summer camp.

In order to start work on a merit badge, a Scout must contact the Rank Advancement Chair and request a merit badge application. A small blue card for tracking progress toward the badge will be provided by the Advancement Chair. It is always the responsibility of the Scout to come to understand the requirements of any badge they attempt to earn. It is always the responsibility of the Scout to provide proof the requirements of the badge have been met. Scouts are encouraged to ask for help from other Scouts and adult leaders, but merit badges are an individual activity and should be self-directed. Once the Scout has completed all of the requirements for a merit badge, the completed blue card must be submitted to the Advancement Chair for review. Upon successful review, the Scout will be awarded the merit badge at the next Court of Awards.

## **Court of Awards**

The troop will hold Court of Awards two or three times a year. The Court of Awards is a formal ceremony that parents, family and friends are encouraged to attend. Scouts receive the rank advancement and merit badges they have earned since the previous Court.

## **Handbooks**

Rank advancement can only happen through the Scout Handbook. The Scout Handbook defines all of the requirements for every rank and provides insight on the intention and value of every associated activity. The requirements are tracked and signed off right in the Handbook. Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review require the inspection of the Handbook. Every member of the troop must have their own copy of the Handbook. Handbooks are purchased by the individual scout and should be clearly marked with the scout's name.

## Weekly Troop Meetings

Troop 1085 meets in the Rogers School gymnasium on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30.

### Opening Flags

Every regular troop meeting begins with the opening flags ceremony. The troop Buglers call the troop together. Everyone present makes the Pledge of Allegiance and recites the Scout Oath and Law.

### Patrol Activities

A part of most regular weekly meetings go toward patrol activities. This is a chance for the patrols to work independently on their own activities.

### Troop Activities

A part of most regular weekly meetings go toward troop activities. This is a chance for the patrols to come together and for all members of the troop to work together as a single team.

### Closing Circle

Every regular weekly meeting ends with a closing circle ceremony. The closing circle is a chance for announcements and comments from anyone with anything to say. The Scoutmaster has the opportunity to give a "Scoutmaster Minute" – a very short talk on anything he feels is valuable to add to the meeting.

### Open Gym Time

Time is provided after the closing circle for the Scouts to play together and take advantage of access to the school gym and grounds. Group games, especially dodge ball, are the mainstay of open gym time. Scouts in need of a Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review may have to sacrifice their open gym time in order to make time to meet with the adult leaders.

## Camping

Camping is perhaps the most important activity in Scouting. Like all troop activities, campouts are an optional activity, but should be considered one of the main reasons for joining the troop and should be attended as often as possible. Campouts are the time and place the boys have the best opportunities to make friends, develop themselves as young leaders and experience the best Scouting has to offer.

Scouting is an organization that provides ample opportunity for everyone to get involved, but not at the expense of diminishing the camping experience. Camping can be a demanding activity and is not intended for anyone other than the Scouts and adult guardians that would like to participate. Siblings and other children that are not seriously considering membership in the troop are strongly discouraged from attending. Adults that may have difficulty with camping activities are also strongly cautioned.

## Weekend Campouts

Each month the troop will take a weekend camping trip. Most weekend trips are to a local Scout camp, like D-A (D Bar A), or to a local state camp ground. The troop will leave as a group early Friday evening and return early Sunday afternoon. During weekend campouts, the Scouts will usually sleep in tents and cook outdoors. Winter campouts, while more challenging than warm weather outings, are still held outdoors. Occasionally, depending on weather, location and availability, the troop will use a cabin for a weekend campout. Cabins sometimes have electricity and heat, but rarely have indoor plumbing. Cabins usually provide bunk-style cots for sleeping.

## Summer Camp

Summer camp is a different experience than weekend campouts. Summer camp is an entire week of tent camping, usually with several other troops at a Scout camp. Most summer camps provide huge, well-staffed, professionally run programs. The troop can enjoy well-equipped expansive campgrounds, dining hall meal service, army-style platform tents and counseled merit badge classes for dozens of badges.

## Troop Traditions

In addition to weekly meetings and campouts, the troop traditionally holds several annual events.

### Bowling Night

During mid-winter break, the troop holds a bowling night in place of the regular troop meeting. Family, friends, Cub Scouts and anyone interested in joining the troop are invited to attend.

### Guard the Art in the Park

The weekend before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Huntington Woods Lutheran Church hosts an art fair. The troop camps on the church grounds Friday and Saturday night to stand guard over the vendor tents. Food, movies and an all-night game of capture the flag keep the boys busy.

### Father's Day Weekend Canoe Trip

The June weekend campout is a canoe trip at Cole Canoe Base on Father's Day weekend. Fathers are encouraged to accompany their sons on this campout. Moms and other adult guardians are also welcome as always.

### Holiday Potluck

The final regular meeting of December is a family-style potluck dinner. No business, just friends, food and fun.

### Bottle Drive

The troop raises most of its funds through an annual bottle drive covering most of the city of Berkley. The boys go door to door and solicit donations of returnable bottles. The mountains of bottles and cans are separated by brand, bagged and picked up by bottling companies or returned to stores by members of the troop.

### Memorial Day Flag Service

The Saturday of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the troop places flags on the graves of all veterans at the Roseland Park Cemetery.

## What a Scout Needs

Besides the uniforms and handbook described earlier, each scout will also need some personal items necessary for camping and other activities.

Required items -

Sleeping bag or bed roll warm enough for sleeping outdoors in the winter

Winter clothing (boots, coat, gloves and hat) suitable for extended wear in the winter

Flashlight

Suggested additional items to consider –

Pocket knife (requires certification)

Hiking boots or shoes suitable for extended walks and camping

Rain suit or poncho

Duffle bag

Other popular optional items –

Compass

Backpack

Mess kit

Personal tent

## Scout Conduct

Scouting is an optional activity that demands as much of its members as it gives back. A valuable experience can only be had in an environment of mutual respect. Respect for the efforts, time, talents, opinions and presence of each other is mandatory at all times. Scouts that can not conduct themselves accordingly may be asked to leave any Scout activity at any time. Such premature departures may require an adult guardian to pick the Scout up and remove them from the activity. In the rare case of repeated or exceptionally unacceptable behavior, the Scout may be suspended from future activities. Scouts unable to accept these rules of conduct are expected to remove themselves from the troop. Remember, Scouting is an optional activity. Part of that option is the decision to live according to the Scout Law and Oath and exhibit behavior that is consistent with those rules at all time.

The Scoutmaster is selected by the troop and is implicitly entrusted with the best interests of the troop. Decisions made by the Scoutmaster regarding the behavior of any troop member, Scout or adult, are expected to be accepted and are not subject to instant appeal. Disagreements over what is and is not acceptable behavior should be taken offline and discussed in private or in a parent committee meeting. Any adult leader serving as acting Scoutmaster in the Scoutmaster's absence is given the same consideration.